



BLACK LEADERSHIP FORUM, INC.



Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Preserving the Open Internet – Broadband Industry Practices GN Docket No. 09-191

January 14, 2009

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Over the last several months, we have been pleased to work with the Commission on the creation of a National Broadband Plan. As organizations that serve communities that are among the most severely impacted by a lack of technology, we believe that the goal of 100 percent broadband – in both deployment and adoption – is critical to the success of our communities and our country. We hope that the Commission remains dedicated to achieving this objective as you complete the Plan.

In October, many of the undersigned organizations submitted a letter to the Commission in regard to the then-pending Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Open Internet. We asked that the NPRM include a framework to incorporate thoughtful analysis of how proposed net neutrality regulations would impact low-income, multilingual, minority, elderly and young Americans, as well as people with disabilities. It was our request of the Commission that the NPRM reflect clear, concise, fact-based analytical evaluations about broadband adoption and usage in these particular communities.

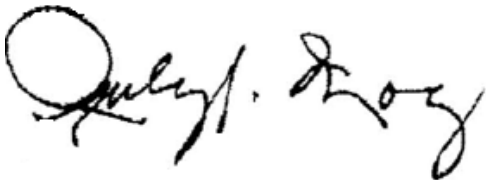
Now, months later, there has been no analysis of these important factors, as the Commission has moved forward with the NPRM. As we have said before, we strongly urge the Commission to ensure that there will be no delays in advancing initiatives to bridge the digital divide. We also remain concerned that there are a number of proposals being considered by the FCC that may discourage broadband adoption, including many provisions being considered in the name of net neutrality. Should our communities be left behind in broadband deployment and adoption as a result of any reactive policy, we know our constituents and members stand to miss out on important opportunities for economic attainment, educational achievement, affordable health care, and civic engagement. At this time, the Commission's top priority should be extending these benefits to all Americans, rather than limiting their impact.

Again, as many of the undersigned have previously stated to the Commission, we urge you to focus on promoting universal broadband deployment and adoption, as advocated by Congress and the Obama Administration. This effort will make the most difference for the millions of Americans who must be included in our nation's digital future.

Sincerely,



Albert E. Dotson, Jr  
Chairman of the Board  
100 Black Men of America



Ruby G Moy  
Interim Executive Director  
Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies



Stewart Kwoh  
President & Executive Director  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center



Ronald Blackburn-Moreno  
President & CEO  
ASPIRA



Dr. Valerie D. White  
Chairwoman  
Black College Communications Association



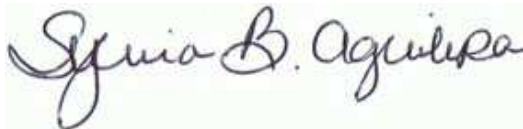
Executive Director and CEO  
Black Leadership Forum



Nestor Montilla  
President  
Dominican American National Roundtable



Gus West  
President & CEO  
Hispanic Institute



Sylvia Aguilera  
Executive Director  
Hispanic Technology and Telecommunications Partnership



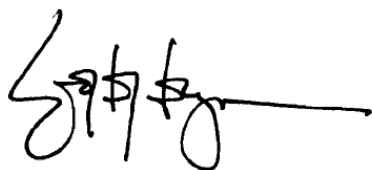
S. Floyd Mori  
National Executive Director  
Japanese American Citizens League



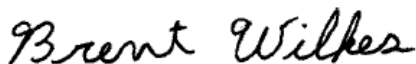
Jose Marquez  
President & CEO  
Latinos in Information Sciences and Technology Association



Jason Leon  
Executive Director  
Labor Council on Latin American Advancement



J.D. Hokoyama  
President & CEO  
Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc.



Brent Wilkes  
National Executive Director  
League of United Latin American Citizens



Alma Riojas  
President & CEO  
MANA: A National Latina Organization



Hilary O. Shelton  
Director Washington Bureau & Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Policy  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People



Ricardo C. Byrd  
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National Association of Neighborhoods



Melanie Campbell  
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National Coalition of Black Civic Participation



Michael Morris  
Executive Director  
National Disability Institute



EunSook Lee  
Executive Director  
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium



Rafael Fantauzzi  
President & CEO  
National Puerto Rican Coalition

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George C. Wu'.

George C. Wu  
Executive Director  
Organization of Chinese Americans

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Juan Andrade'.

Dr. Juan Andrade  
President and CEO  
US Hispanic Leadership Institute